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DE RUEHHI #0878 2120900
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 300900Z JUL 08
FM AMEMBASSY HANOI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8203
INFO RUEHHM/AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH 4960
RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS HANOI 000878

STATE FOR OES/ENV (HFINMAN)

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [AORC](#) [EAGR](#) [ETRD](#) [SENV](#) [VM](#)
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: MERCURY ISSUES AT THE ADHOC
OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP IN OCTOBER 2008

REF: STATE 63943

[1](#)1. (U) As requested, ESTH delivered this demarche to the Vietnam Environmental Protection Agency (VEPA) in mid-June. VEPA officials first stated that they would respond by letter, than suggested a meeting, subsequently cancelled the meeting, requested additional time to consider the issue, and finally provided a short response following numerous calls from ESTH assistant.

[1](#)2. (U) According to working level officials at VEPA, the Government of Vietnam (GVN) has performed few, if any, studies on mercury, other than statistics relating to mercury use in a small number of hospitals. With little experience, VEPA found it difficult to respond to the questions listed in reftel. However, in principle, Vietnam would support international mercury initiatives and looked forward to the opportunity to cooperate on this issue.

Comment

[1](#)3. (SBU) As the GVN's disorganized response demonstrates, Vietnam has paid little attention to this issue to date. It is willing to learn more about international efforts, but likely will not play an active role in upcoming multilateral mercury control discussions.

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